*At Westvaco*

# Technology, research aid in forestry

Snuggled away on the lower floor of Westvaco's Woodlands office building on Route 460 in Appomattox County is part of one of the most sophisticated timber inventory systems in modern forestry.

Westvaco's computer-mapping system, driven by a COMARC software package, is helping the forestry company to super-refine its cataloguing process for the approximately 140,000 acres of timberland owned by Westvaco in 18 Piedmont Virginia counties.

The computer mapping team begins by "digitizing" topographic quad sheets on which Westvaco tracts are located. Digitizing is the process of electronically tracing points, lines, and areas on a map with a computer cursor. These map features are converted by the computer into coordinates which correspond to the actual location of the features on the earth's surface, such as longitude and latitude.

"We use topographic quadrangles prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey for preparing our data base," notes Bob Dixon, Technical Superintendent with Westvaco's Virginia Woodlands.

The federal government has topographic maps for virtually every acre of ground in the United States. These maps are graphic representations of the physical characteristics of the earth's surface as compiled through a variety of survey means, especially aerial and satellite photography.

The basic information digitized from the quad sheets includes the geographical boundaries of the quad in relation to other quads and major topographical characteristics such as rivers, roads and impoundments.

Once the base information from the quads is computerized, the boundaries of the Westvaco tract are digitized onto the quad features. The quad and boundary line of the Westvaco tract are plotted out by the computer and the details of the tract are traced from recent aerial photographs onto this base map using the transfer scope.

The transfer scope projects the image of the aerial photo directly onto the base map. This allows the Westvaco mappers to precisely update the base information with details regarding the stands of timber, location of utility lines, and rights-of-way.

"This is where you find the biggest improvement in the computer maps, as compared with the old method of compiling the maps using information gathered in the field," notes Dixon. "The transfer scope allows you to more accurately transfer information onto the base map."

Dixon adds that field checks are conducted to verify information before putting data into the computer. "The computer has not replaced the forester's field work," he notes. "But it has helped to make the overall inventory system more accurate."

While there are no limits on the amount of information which can be put into the computer about a tract of land the time required for this precision work limits data input to information pertinent to the forestry management. When the data base currently being compiled on Westvaco's holdings is complete, the company can update information on its tracts as they change. For example, if a tract is cleared for planting loblolly pine seedlings or if a pine stand is thinned, the map for that particular tract can be changed quickly and accurately to show the work which has been accomplished.

When the completed map is stored in the electronic memory of the computer, it can be recalled instantly and printed, with the end product featuring various colors to differentiate various timber types, uses of parcels, and other information which facilitates good forest management.

The precision afforded by the computer mapping system has other benefits. For example, Westvaco has a more accurate record of that portion of its land which is used for roads, utility rights-of-way, and other non-forest-related purposes.

The computer mapping system is only one example of Westvaco's progressive approach to forestry.

A less conspicuous example can be found in the company's genetic improvement program.

"This year, all of the approximately 3 million trees Westvaco will plant in Virginia will come from genetically improved stock," Dixon notes.

A cooperative agreement between several forestry companies and North Carolina State University was made in the late 1950s, and for the past two decades, the co-op members have been involved in genetically improving loblolly pine stock for plantings in the Southeastern portion of the United States.

The improved pines are produced by grafting twigs from genetically superior trees onto established root systems, allowing the genetically superior stock to begin producing seeds in a minimum amount of time.

These grafts, or "scions," are chosen from trees which have exhibited outstanding growth rates, resistance to disease, and other preferred characteristics in the wild or on a plantation.

"After a branch from a genetically superior tree is grafted, it is a minimum four or five years before the grafted branch will begin to bear cones," Dixon points out. Maximum seed production is reached in approximately ten years.

Most of the seed from the genetically improved trees originates at Westvaco's seed orchard near Summerville, South Carolina. It is grown to seedling size at the Virginia Division of Forestry's nursery in New Kent County. When they are large enough to be planted, the seedlings are distributed to tracts which have been prepared for new pine plantations.

The value of the genetic improvement program is simple. As more tracts are planted with improved seedlings, the per-acre production of fibre will increase, moving Westvaco closer to utilizing the maximum potential of its land.

"Westvaco was one of the first companies to use genetic improvement techniques on loblolly pine," notes Dixon. "Some of the seedlings being planted now are second generation genetically improved trees."


We're proud to be part of Central Virginia's progress.

Westvaco, one of the country's leading makers of pulp, paper, packaging and specialty chemicals, has operated in Virginia since this century began.

Pulpwood that is purchased by our area woodyards represents business to us and jobs and income to the people who sell, cut and transport it. This wood is turned into bleached paperboard at Westvaco's mill in Covington. The bleached paperboard is then used to make folding cartons for thousands of consumer products and comes back to this area as packaging for many of the nation's leading brands.

One of the area's and Westvaco's most vital resources are our renewable forests. Our timberlands are intensively managed using proven, environmentally sound, Multiple-Use forest management techniques. Besides wood, our scientifically managed forests provide food and cover for wildlife, help control erosion, protect watersheds, offer opportunities for recreation and give us natural beauty.

Through our Cooperative Forest Management (CFM) Program we're sharing our forestry experience with private landowners to help them turn their goals into action on their own forest lands.

We're proud to continue being part of the region's economic growth, a good neighbor in the area's forest industry and a fellow citizen in the heart of Virginia's beautiful Piedmont.

Westvaco

We live here.




# White's Home and Auto store offers wide variety of products, service

White's Home and Auto Store has been a feature at Triangle Plaza Shopping Center since August of 1975.

The business is owned and operated by Carl Miller, with help from his wife, Diane and their daughter, Donna.

Diane, a native of Dover, Del., is employed at First Colony Life Insurance Company in Lynchburg in addition to her duties at White's.

Late in 1982, the dealership division of White's Auto was purchased by the Canadian Tire Company. The move was one which has benefited the customers of White's Auto in Appomattox.

"They're a very progressive company," comments Dianne. "And they don't do things half way."

Carl notes that Canadian Tire Company is a large organization and as such is able to buy goods in very large quantities, at reduced cost.

"They can give us better price on an item, and we can in turn pass it on to our customers," notes Carl.

In addition, Canadian Tires stocks a trememdous variety of items for automotive and home use. "The products line has been expanded.

"We have available more and more items for our customers. And along with the better selection, we have better prices," Carl adds.

Carl points out that his store carries a complete line of automotive parts, for both foreign and domestic cars. "We have also increased our hardware line in the last year."

In addition to offering a full line of home and automotive products, the store features a repair and service shop. Carl offers full service on lawnmowers, roto-tillers, and other machinery with small engines from 2 horse-power to 20 horsepower.

"I also work on automotive electrical systems," notes Carl, "and I can repair or install tires, and install batteries," he adds.

Whites is known for its wide variety of items, ranging from household appliances to fishing gear, and for its popular monthly sales.

Helping the Millers in their store are Pam Hudson, part time salesperson, Cecil Jacobs who works in the repair shop, and Ronald Reed, who provides general assistance as needed in the store.

"One of the newer services we're proud of is thenew White's credit card we're offering, "says Diane. "A customer applies and is approved here at the store, and we will honor the card, just as we honor Master Charge and Visa."

Carl, a native of Kansas, and his wife, Diane, have one son and daughter. Donna, their daughter, is a graduate of Shenandoah College, and works full time in the family store. The Millers' son, Chris, is a graduate of James Madison University and works for Babcock and Wilcox in Lynchburg.

Carl managed a company store for Kelly Springfield in Deleware and General Tire in northern Virginia before moving his family to Appomattox in 1975.

The move was not taken lightly, says Carl, a 12-year Unites States Air Force veteran.

"We spent a lot of time looking for just the right business location," says Carl. "It was more than just a good location to start a business we were after. We were looking for a good place for our family. And we found it.

# *Armstrong is leading industry in Appomattox*

(Continued from page 12)

and orders placed for doubling capital expenditures in this area will exceed a million dollars in 1983. Much of the new equipment has been ordered and delivery is expected in June of this year. This is part of a major production expansion to broaden the product line currently being manufactured at the Appomattox plant.

William Lowe is Vice President and Plant Manager; Bruce Cowan is Assistant Plant Manager and Susan Bailey is Personnel Manager.

The Wonderful World of Armstrong ...proud to be a part of this community since 1974.


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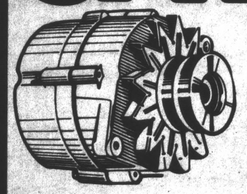

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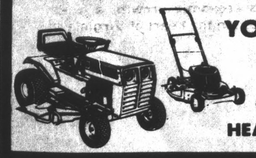

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